

11. PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER

Definition Measure: *“Do you have one person you think of as your personal doctor or health care provider? If no, is there more than one, or is there no person who you think of as your personal doctor or health care provider?” [Yes to having one or more than one personal doctor or health care provider]*

Why is having a primary care provider important to public health?

Individuals with a primary care provider are more likely to obtain preventive health care services, to have access to care, to receive continuous care, and to have lower rates of hospitalization, as well as lower health care costs.^{1,26} Preventive health care services may include: clinical breast exam, mammogram, prostate exam, colon cancer screening, Pap test, cholesterol screening, blood pressure screening, diabetes tests, and many more. Screenings are recommended in many cases to prevent a more serious diagnosis at a later date. According to Healthy People 2010 (HP2010), “Strong predictors of access to quality health care include having health insurance, a higher income level, and a regular primary care provider or other source of ongoing health care. Use of clinical preventive services, such as early prenatal care, can serve as indicators of access to quality health care services.”¹

Additionally HP2010 states that, “More than 40 million Americans do not have a particular health care provider’s office, clinic, health center, or other place where they usually go to seek health care or health-related advice. Even among privately insured persons, a significant number lacked a usual source of care or reported difficulty in accessing needed care due to financial constraints or insurance problems.”¹

According to BRFSS data 2001–2005, individuals are more likely to have a primary care provider if their activities are limited in any way because of physical, mental, or emotional problems. The survey also showed that persons who indicated that they had a primary care provider were more likely to report eating at least two fruits a day or three vegetables a day. In addition, persons who did not have a primary care provider were less likely to get recommended screenings, vaccinations, and prenatal care such as mammograms, Pap tests, prostate-specific antigen (PSA) tests, flu shots, clinical breast exams, and take folic acid daily supplements.

Risk factors for not having a primary care provider

According to BRFSS data 2001–2005, multiple factors influenced the likelihood of an individual having a primary care provider. Some of these factors included gender, age, household income, education, ethnicity, health insurance, and marital status. Males were less likely to have a primary care provider. Younger individuals were less likely to have a primary care provider as were those living in lower income households. Additionally, Hispanic persons and those with less education were less likely to have a primary care provider. Those without health care coverage were less likely to have a primary care provider. Those not married were significantly less likely to have a primary care provider. Finally, students were least likely of all occupations to have a primary care provider. There was no difference in perceived general health for those who did and did not have a primary care provider.

Primary care provider in Utah

The age-adjusted aggregated state rate for having a primary care provider from 2001–2005 was 76.4%. The related crude rate was 74.4%, meaning that approximately 425,000 adult Utahns did not have a primary care provider in 2003. However, the age-adjusted prevalence of having a primary care provider varied by local health district and ranged from a low of 71.0% to a high of 81.0% (see Figure 11.1). Central Utah had the

Utah Objective: Same as HP2010 objective.

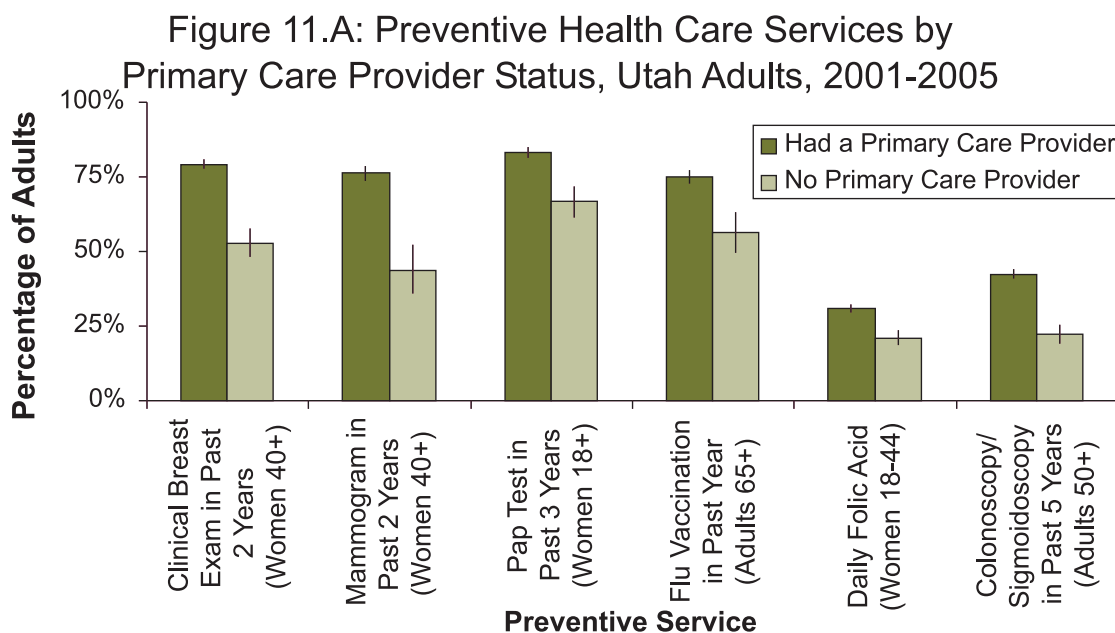
HP2010 Objective (related) 1-5: Increase the proportion of persons with a usual primary care provider to 85%.

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Primary care provider in Utah (continued)

highest prevalence for having a primary care provider and Summit County had the lowest prevalence. Overall, the small area with the highest rate for having a primary care provider was East Orem with a rate of 92.7% and the small area with the lowest rate was South Salt Lake whose rate was 63.9%.

Statewide, persons with a primary care provider had significantly higher rates of preventive health care services than those without a personal health care provider.



Prevention/Resources

The Utah Department of Health has programs such as Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for children 0–18, and the Primary Care Network (PCN) to pay health care costs for low-income children and adults and those with disabilities.

To contact Medicaid in the Salt Lake City area, call (801) 538-6155. In Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Nevada, call toll-free 1-800-662-9651. From other states, call 1-801-538-6155. Call the Health Resource Line at 1-888-222-2542 for information on CHIP and PCN. Or visit the CHIP website at <http://www.utahchip.org/> and the PCN website at <http://health.utah.gov/pcn/>.

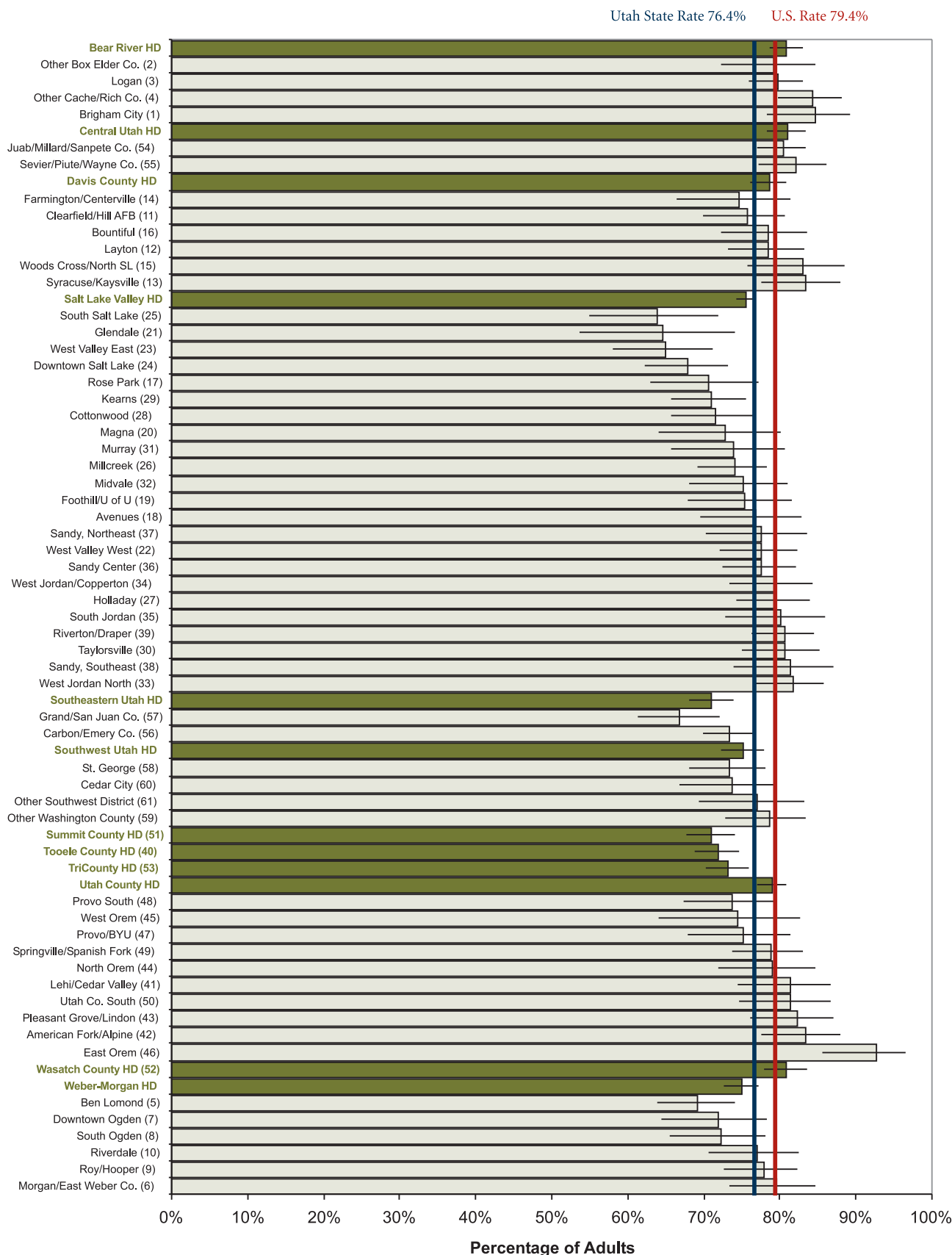
UPP (Utah's Premium Partnership for Health Insurance) helps make health insurance more affordable for working individuals and families who do not currently have health insurance. Call 1-888-222-2542 or visit www.health.utah.gov/upp.

The Association for Utah Community Health (AUCH) is the primary care association for the state of Utah. AUCH members include Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) and other providers who strive to meet the needs of the medically underserved. AUCH and its member organizations are part of a statewide and national movement to reduce barriers to health care by enhancing primary care service delivery through prevention, health promotion, and community participation. Call (801) 974-5522 or visit www.auch.org.

General Cancer Resource Guide - A comprehensive list of cancer resources is made available by the Huntsman Cancer Institute and the Utah Cancer Action Network and can be found at the following URL: <http://www.hci.utah.edu/pdf/brochures/cancerResourceGuide.pdf>.

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Figure 11.1: Percentage of Adults Reporting a Primary Care Provider by Local Health District and Small Area, Utah Adults Aged 18+, 2001–2005 (Age-adjusted)



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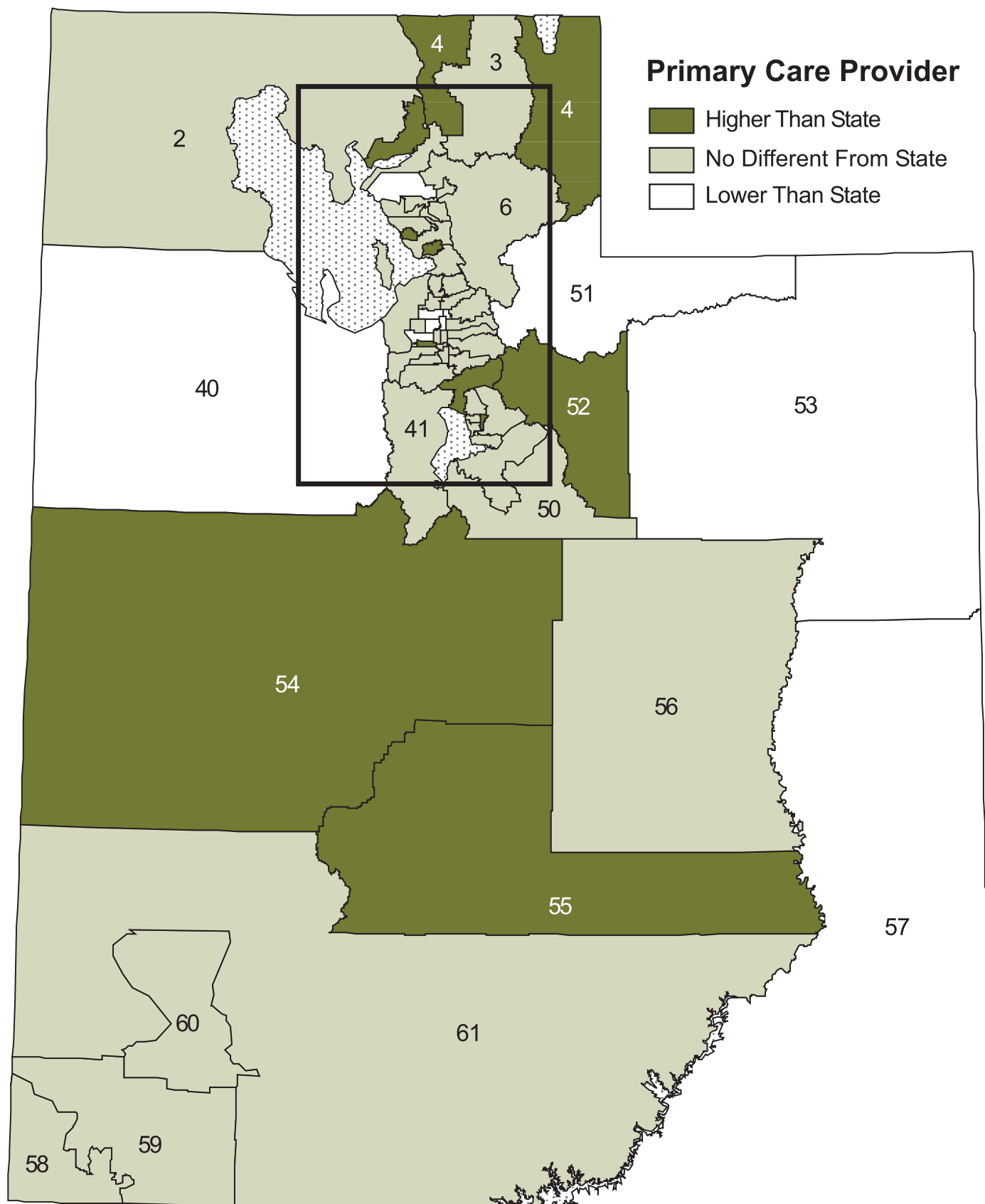
Table 11: Primary Care Provider by Health District, Small Area, Utah, and U.S., 2001-2005

State Rank*	State, Health District, or Small Area	2003 Population 18+	Number of Adults Reporting Primary Care Provider	Crude Rate	Age-adjusted Rate	95% Confidence Interval	
						Lower	Upper
	U.S.	217,803,051	173,262,327	79.6%	79.4%	79.3%	79.5%
	State of Utah	1,657,454	1,232,649	74.4%	76.4%	75.7%	77.1%
	Bear River HD	98,027	75,530	77.1%	80.9%	78.5%	83.0%
60	Brigham City (1)	14,566	12,069	82.9%	84.6%	78.3%	89.3%
44	Logan (3)	45,904	31,899	69.5%	79.7%	75.8%	83.1%
40	Other Box Elder Co. (2)	14,636	11,712	80.0%	79.2%	72.2%	84.7%
59	Other Cache/Rich Co. (4)	22,921	19,185	83.7%	84.4%	79.7%	88.1%
	Central Utah HD	47,558	38,403	80.8%	81.0%	78.3%	83.5%
46	Juab/Millard/Sanpete Co. (54)	31,637	25,411	80.3%	80.4%	77.0%	83.4%
54	Sevier/Piute/Wayne Co. (55)	15,921	12,976	81.5%	82.0%	77.2%	86.1%
	Davis County HD	175,027	134,771	77.0%	78.6%	76.2%	80.9%
35	Bountiful (16)	33,318	25,888	77.7%	78.4%	72.2%	83.5%
27	Clearfield/Hill AFB (11)	37,329	27,467	73.6%	75.7%	70.0%	80.6%
23	Farmington/Centerville (14)	19,034	14,232	74.8%	74.7%	66.5%	81.4%
36	Layton (12)	46,815	35,514	75.9%	78.5%	73.1%	83.1%
57	Syracuse/Kaysville (13)	24,542	19,997	81.5%	83.3%	77.5%	87.9%
56	Woods Cross/North SL (15)	13,989	11,586	82.8%	83.1%	75.8%	88.5%
	Salt Lake Valley HD	658,810	485,609	73.7%	75.6%	74.3%	76.7%
28	Avenues (18)	18,959	14,487	76.4%	76.8%	69.5%	82.8%
10	Cottonwood (28)	33,297	23,987	72.0%	71.6%	65.8%	76.8%
5	Downtown Salt Lake (24)	42,808	27,752	64.8%	67.9%	62.2%	73.1%
26	Foothill/U of U (19)	17,778	12,871	72.4%	75.4%	67.9%	81.6%
2	Glendale (21)	18,642	12,121	65.0%	64.6%	53.7%	74.1%
42	Holladay (27)	35,956	29,056	80.8%	79.5%	74.2%	83.9%
8	Kearns (29)	42,995	29,340	68.2%	70.9%	65.8%	75.6%
14	Magna (20)	15,623	10,744	68.8%	72.7%	64.0%	80.0%
24	Midvale (32)	21,672	15,450	71.3%	75.1%	68.0%	81.1%
21	Millcreek (26)	44,008	32,848	74.6%	74.0%	69.2%	78.4%
20	Murray (31)	24,072	18,037	74.9%	73.8%	65.7%	80.7%
47	Riverton/Draper (39)	41,391	32,107	77.6%	80.6%	76.2%	84.4%
7	Rose Park (17)	22,639	15,021	66.4%	70.6%	62.9%	77.2%
33	Sandy Center (36)	36,106	27,130	75.1%	77.6%	72.4%	82.1%
31	Sandy, Northeast (37)	18,245	13,988	76.7%	77.5%	70.2%	83.5%
51	Sandy, Southeast (38)	20,781	16,930	81.5%	81.3%	73.9%	87.1%
45	South Jordan (35)	20,931	16,684	79.7%	80.1%	72.8%	85.9%
1	South Salt Lake (25)	18,456	11,900	64.5%	63.9%	54.9%	72.0%
48	Taylorsville (30)	27,372	21,909	80.0%	80.7%	75.0%	85.3%
53	West Jordan North (33)	30,391	24,200	79.6%	81.8%	76.8%	85.8%
41	West Jordan/Copperton (34)	26,360	20,337	77.2%	79.4%	73.4%	84.3%
3	West Valley East (23)	35,527	22,439	63.2%	64.9%	58.0%	71.2%
32	West Valley West (22)	44,794	33,972	75.8%	77.6%	72.1%	82.2%
	Southeastern Utah HD	36,828	26,107	70.9%	71.1%	68.1%	73.9%
17	Carbon/Emery Co. (56)	21,451	15,751	73.4%	73.4%	69.9%	76.6%
4	Grand/San Juan Co. (57)	15,377	10,157	66.1%	66.9%	61.2%	72.1%
	Southwest Utah HD	116,150	87,124	75.0%	75.2%	72.2%	77.9%
18	Cedar City (60)	22,401	15,325	68.4%	73.7%	66.9%	79.6%
29	Other Southwest District (61)	15,384	12,215	79.4%	77.1%	69.4%	83.3%
37	Other Washington County (59)	32,503	25,479	78.4%	78.6%	72.9%	83.4%
16	St. George (58)	45,862	33,975	74.1%	73.4%	68.1%	78.0%
9	Summit County HD (51)	24,525	17,028	69.4%	71.0%	67.8%	74.0%
12	Tooele County HD (40)	32,458	22,867	70.5%	71.8%	68.9%	74.6%
15	TriCounty HD (53)	28,023	20,404	72.8%	73.2%	70.3%	75.8%
	Utah County HD	278,832	205,862	73.8%	79.0%	77.0%	80.9%
58	American Fork/Alpine (42)	26,819	21,667	80.8%	83.5%	77.6%	88.0%
61	East Orem (46)	14,955	13,815	92.4%	92.7%	85.6%	96.5%
50	Lehi/Cedar Valley (41)	18,752	15,191	81.0%	81.3%	74.4%	86.7%
39	North Orem (44)	25,965	19,331	74.5%	79.0%	71.9%	84.7%
55	Pleasant Grove/Lindon (43)	24,636	19,953	81.0%	82.2%	76.1%	87.1%
25	Provo/BYU (47)	39,401	25,622	65.0%	75.2%	67.9%	81.4%
19	Provo South (48)	48,138	26,765	55.6%	73.7%	67.3%	79.2%
38	Springville/Spanish Fork (49)	41,036	31,684	77.2%	78.8%	73.8%	83.1%
52	Utah Co. South (50)	17,363	13,753	79.2%	81.4%	74.7%	86.7%
22	West Orem (45)	21,774	15,531	71.3%	74.5%	64.0%	82.8%
49	Wasatch County HD (52)	12,514	10,027	80.1%	80.9%	77.9%	83.6%
	Weber-Morgan HD	148,702	109,222	73.5%	75.0%	72.6%	77.3%
6	Ben Lomond (5)	33,215	22,111	66.6%	69.2%	63.9%	74.2%
11	Downtown Ogden (7)	21,684	14,927	68.8%	71.8%	64.4%	78.2%
43	Morgan/East Weber Co. (6)	24,131	19,240	79.7%	79.5%	73.3%	84.6%
30	Riverdale (10)	15,522	11,991	77.3%	77.1%	70.7%	82.4%
34	Roy/Hooper (9)	27,898	21,183	75.9%	77.9%	72.7%	82.4%
13	South Ogden (8)	26,255	18,909	72.0%	72.2%	65.5%	78.1%

*State rank is by 61 small areas for age-adjusted rate; 1 is always the lowest rate in the state and 61 is always the highest rate in the state.

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Figure 11.2: Primary Care Provider by Small Area, Utah Adults Aged 18+, 2001–2005 (Age-adjusted)



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Figure 11.3: Primary Care Provider by Small Area, Wasatch Front Adults Aged 18+, 2001–2005 (Age-adjusted)

